

Small archive of documents from the First Pacific Coast Congress, a gathering of liberal and left-wing organizations opposed to war and fascist governments in Europe. Included are 13 separate items, of various sizes and formats including broadsides, handbills, pamphlets, programs, and ephemera. Overall very good or better with creases from being mailed or stored, light toning and some occasion edgewear.

With the shadow of fascism spreading in Europe and increasing militarism growing across the Pacific, labor unions and sympathetic organizations chaired by Lincoln Steffens organized under the banner of the First Pacific Coast Congress Against War and Fascism. Waldo McNutt, an active member of the American League Against War and Fascism (later the American League for Peace and Democracy), was named the national organizer. The two-day event, held in San Francisco at the Building Trades Temple on April 27 and 28 in 1935, was largely attended by West Coast organizations including the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, whose president Langston Hughes was in attendance.

The material here shows the effort to organize and attract attendees, including two typescript carbon lists showing the organizations sending or endorsing the congress and the proposed agenda. Also broadsides and pamphlets touting the message of the Pacific Coast Congress, such as worker's rights, calls for a general strike, and warning of war profiteering with images of a gas mask wearing Nazi with a bayonet and a dead soldier superimposed against a stock chart showing rising profits. Laid into the four-page mimeograph program is a proposed draft of the Manifesto of the Pacific Coast Congress laying out their goals, and it is accompanied by a larger 54-page booklet providing the minutes and proceedings of the conference, with a list of the presiding committee, the various organizational committees with their reports and recommendations, and a 20 page list of the organizations that attended or supported the gathering.

A wonderful archive of material for the overlooked but important gathering of West Coast communist organization in the years just before World War II.

Broadside:

Pacific Coast Congress Against War and Fascism San Francisco. April 28. Thick paper stock. Measuring 17" x 23". Original hand-screened two-color poster for the congress illustrated with a Nazi soldier wearing helmet, a gas mask, and bearing a bayonet. The poster has offset onto itself from being folded. About very good with creases, offsetting and scalping where two screenprinted surfaces adhere together.

All Out! Sunday Night, April 28 Against War! Against Fascism! Mass Meeting. Quarto sheet. Measuring 8½" x 11". Broadside announcing a mass meeting and listing participating unions. Near fine with light toning.

Handbills:

The First Pacific Coast Congress...Principal Speaker Waldo McNutt. Octavo. Measuring 6" x 9". Handbill announcing a follow-up event to be held in Los Angeles, May 4 [1935]. Fine.

Congress Reports!! The Delegates From Over 150 Organizations have return from the Pacific Coast Congress. Octavo. Measuring 6" x 9". Handbill for a meeting a week after the Congress, featuring Waldo McNutt. Fine.

Pamphlets:

Call to the First Pacific Coast Congress Against War and Fascism, April 28, 1935. San Francisco: Pacific Coast Congress Against War and Fascism. Quarto. Single sheet folded to make four pages. Four-page printed summons, with a lengthy message about the conditions leading to the need for the Congress, along with a registration blank on the last page. Very good or better with folds from mailing, red wax pencil mark and pencil address on the top of the first page.

Call to All Organization, Groups and Individuals Opposed to War and Fascism. Quarto. Single sheet folded to make four pages. Four-page printed summons, with a lengthy message about the conditions leading to the need for the Congress, along with a registration blank on the last page, this version for distribution in Los Angeles. Laid in is the conference delegate's ribbon issued to the attendee who assembled this material. Folded from mailing, near fine.

Can Organized Labor Be Neutral in the Fight Against War and Fascism? Octavo. Single sheet folded to make four pages. Pamphlet containing a statement on war profiteering and unionized labor's role, and a call to attend the Congress. Light folds from mailing, else fine.

Program:

Minutes and Proceedings of the First Pacific Coast Congress Against War and Fascism April 28, 1935, San Francisco, California. Cover illustration by Jacob Burck. Octavo. 54pp. Tape bound with printed stiff blue wrappers and mimeograph sheets. The minutes and transcripts from the event along with lengthy lists of delegates and the organizations they represented, text of greeting messages from some who were unable to attend. Creased from being folded, very good or better.

Program of the First Pacific Coast Congress Against War and Fascism April 27-28, 1935. Octavo. Single sheet folded once to make four pages. A mimeograph program of events, panels, and lyrics to the union anthem "Solidarity Forever" on the rear. Laid in is are two legal sized mimeograph sheets, printed on both sides, containing the proposed draft of the "Manifesto of the Pacific Coast Congress of the American League Against War and Fascism." Very good or better with light toning, wear at the edges and some reading creases.

Ephemera:

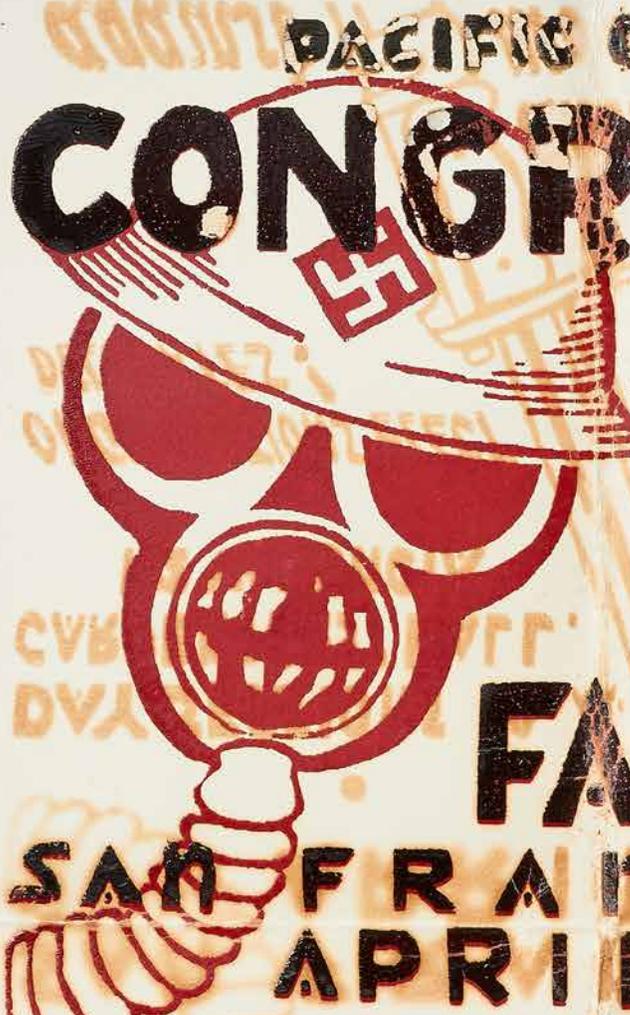
"Proposed Agenda for Congress." Quarto sheets. A two-page typescript carbon; one with 16 items to be decided at the congress and a second page with 15 items to resolved before. Folded from mailing, else fine.

"Organizations Endorsing and Sending Delegates to the Congress." Two copies of a one-page typescript carbon, one with ink notations. A list of organization around California sending delegates.

Small envelope with the printed return address of the Los Angeles committee of the American League Against War and Fascism with holograph notes and receipt relating to the Pacific Coast Congress.

[BTC#415822]

PACIFIC COAST
CONGRESS
AGAINST
WAR
AND
FASCISM
SAN FRANCISCO
APRIL 28

A hand holding a magnifying glass over a globe with a swastika on it.

DAY SESSIONS 10 AM
CARPENTERS' HALL,
112 VALENCIA

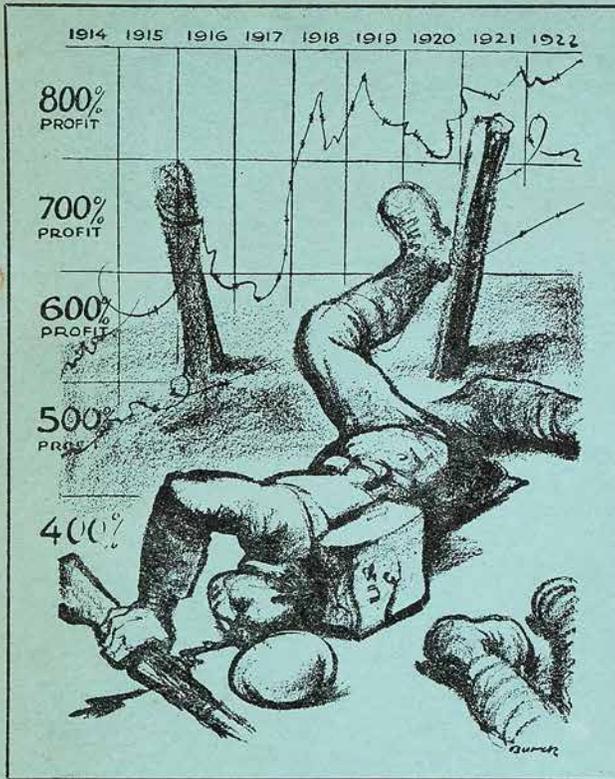
ORGANIZATIONS ELECT
DELEGATES!

**MASS
MEETING**

BUILDING TRADES
• TEMPLE •
• 200 GUERRERO •

CALLED BY

*American League
against War and Fascism.*



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First Pacific Coast Congress
Against War and Fascism

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.
BUILDING TRADES TEMPLE

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April 27 - 28, 1935
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415 DELEGATES Representing 238,000 People